



# Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

## Anniston, AL

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Anniston was selected to receive a job training grant. Anniston (population 26,276) has experienced environmental problems stemming from its once dominant industrial and military-based economy. In 1929, Anniston was home to 117 iron foundries and



### Job Training Grant

**\$200,000**

EPA has selected the City of Anniston for a job training grant. The city plans to recruit 66 students, graduate 60 trainees, and place at least 48 in environmental jobs. Graduates will be tracked for one year. The city plans to provide three 230-hour training cycles over a two-year period. Each eight-week cycle will include a core curriculum consisting of an overview of brownfields and environmental training, and coursework in HAZWOPER, OSHA general industry outreach, mold and asbestos awareness, and confined space entry. Specialized training will be offered in environmental sampling, lead, asbestos, and mold abatement; and heavy equipment operation. Environmental training will be conducted by HGS Engineering, Inc., and the Union Foundry Health and Safety Department. Additional recruitment and training services will be provided by Gadsden State Community College and Community Against Pollution. Students will be recruited from the residents of Anniston who have been negatively impacted by the presence of brownfields in their community. The city will work with its other cooperative partners to place graduates in environmental jobs. Anniston also will establish local workforce provisions requiring contractors to hire program graduates for future brownfields projects.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

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<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

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other major manufacturing facilities. With the steady decline and closing of many of these industrial employers, Anniston was left with potentially contaminated properties and high unemployment rates. In addition, the closing of Fort McClellan resulted in a loss of over 4,000 local jobs. The majority of the city's oldest foundries and heavy manufacturing facilities were in the targeted West Anniston neighborhood. Between 1980 and 2000, West Anniston's population decreased by 46 percent. The poverty and unemployment rates in the neighborhood are 38 and 17 percent, respectively, and 92 percent of area residents are African-American. Residents of this community will be recruited and trained to address the demands for environmental cleanup in Anniston. The city has begun the process of marketing program graduates to the community by including employers in the training program planning process.

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.